

Keeping Tanks Rolling in Baghdad

By Spc. Andy Miller
122nd MPAD

CAMP CUERVO, Iraq – Widely regarded as the world's premier battle tank, the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment's M1A2 Systems Enhancement Package (SEP) Abrams are a vital part of the 1st Cavalry Division's mission in eastern Baghdad.

Their tanks fought on

the front lines during the Muqtada Militia uprising last April, and today they are used to conduct improvised explosive device (IED) sweeps on some of the most dangerous routes in Iraq.

When an Abrams Tank goes down for repairs or maintenance, the tank crew works together with tank

maintenance to get it back on mission as soon as possible.

"Our main focus is to make sure all our tanks are up," 1st Sgt. Luis Freyre, of Company A, 2-8 Cav., said. "[When one goes down, the] priority is to get the tank up as quick as possible."

Frequent missions and the extreme temperatures of Baghdad take their toll on the Abrams, said Staff Sgt. Kendall Titus, the maintenance supervisor for the 'Aces' combat repair team. The Soldiers on Titus's team are specially trained to work on Abrams tanks. Part of the team works all night long to make sure a tank that needs repairs is ready for the next day's mission.

"The guys do good maintenance, and we've got a great maintenance team, but you're fighting

the elements here, too," Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Miller, an Aces platoon sergeant with 16 years of tank experience, said. "We're putting a lot of miles on our vehicles, and at the same time with the excessive heat, it's a tank, it runs hot anyway, and we're in 120 to 130 degree temperatures. You're going to start to see some thermal problems."

Considering the extreme conditions, Titus doesn't think his crew makes an abnormal amount of repairs. They expected the tanks to get a lot of usage in Baghdad, so they were well prepared for the mission here. Still, when a tank goes down, it's a big deal for the tankers and the maintenance team.

"When it goes down, it feels like part of you," Staff Sgt. George Grullon, an Aces tank commander,

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By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

Staff Sgt. George Grullon, tank commander with 2-8 Cavalry, inspects a brand new turbine motor for his tank, 'Ali Baba.' Maintainers worked through the night to replace the tank's engine. The next morning, Ali Baba was ready to hit the streets again.

Doctors Train to Save Iraqi Infants

By Spc. Jan Critchfield
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The last of three classes in which 1st Cavalry Division and Iraqi doctors trained local practitioners in neonatal resuscitation was held July 21 at the Baghdad Convention Center.

"The purpose of the course was to help obstetricians, pediatricians, and family practice doctors here in Baghdad to be cur-

rent on their skills as far as resuscitating newborns," said Capt. James Wayne, 3rd Brigade Combat Team surgeon.

"The ultimate goal is to decrease the infant mortality rate in Iraq," Wayne said. "Since the infant mortality rate is so high, there's a good chance that a lot of the deaths can be averted simply by using proper neonatal resuscitation technique."

Originally organized by the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the program has found new energy with instruction from 1st Cavalry Division doctors and the enthusiasm of local doctors.

"The doctors we're working with are sharp, they're intelligent, they're enthusiastic, and they all want to learn. They want to make sure the medicine

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By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD
Neonatal resuscitation techniques were one many subjects trained.

Maintenance is Key

Continued from Page 1

said. "It's like being hurt, that's why we take it seriously. We try to bring it back up as soon as possible. That way we can continue on with our mission."

Being part of tank crew is like being part of a family, Grullon said, who shares a tradition of tanking with his brother and grandfather. The family-like camaraderie that tankers share extends to the maintenance crew Soldiers who help keep the tanks running, Miller said.

"Most tank crews are genuinely concerned about their tanks and they give us a lot of help," Titus said. "It takes two hands to clap. To make that sound you have to have two hands, the crew is one hand; the maintenance team is the other hand. We come together and try to keep the product out there."



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD
Sgt. Thursha Maragh, a tank mechanic with Company A, 2-8 Cavalry, works to prepare a turbine motor for installation. When an Abrams tank goes down, Maragh's crew works through the night with the Abrams crew to ensure the tank will be mission-ready the next day.

Wednesday

High: 114
Low: 86



Thursday

High: 114
Low: 86



Friday

High: 114
Low: 82



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

American Embassy

siFAARa amriKlya



SAFETY TIP

Beat the Heat

- ▶ Drink more fluids, regardless of your level of activity.
- ▶ Avoid drinks containing caffeine or large amounts of sugar -- these can actually cause your body to lose more body fluid.
- ▶ Avoid very cold drinks. These can cause stomach cramps.

Attacking Infant Mortality Rate

they are practicing is as current as possible."

"It was our goal to train as many physicians as possible," said Maj. Richard Bickel, 1st Brigade Combat Team surgeon, who helped organize the event. "They've been working for a long time without many of the things that we've gotten to work with."

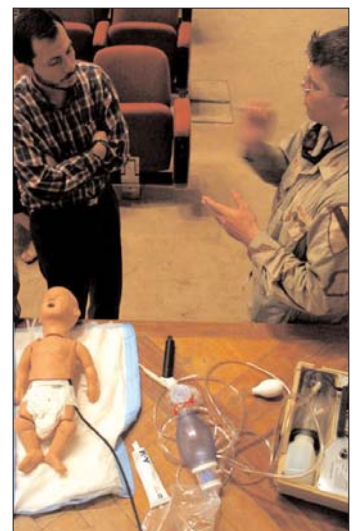
Bickel said up-to-date equipment has often been limited to Baghdad's healers. That is changing.

"With the exception of a few little pieces of equipment, they have everything they need to [resuscitate a baby]," he said.

"For thirty-five years, we have been isolated from the outside world and nobody goes outside [Iraq] to train. One of the most important things is to train people," said Dr. Hassan, Director of the Ministry of Health for Baghdad's Al-Risafa District.

"One of the main causes [of the high regional

infant mortality rate] is lack of training. The other is lack of equipment. Another is the low standard of living in Iraq," Hassan said.



By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD
Maj. Richard Bickel, 1st Brigade Combat Team surgeon, explains a resuscitation technique during a course offered to local Iraqi physicians July 21 at the Baghdad Convention Center.

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Your Right to Vote Made Possible Overseas

► From Fort Hood Herald

With Soldiers fighting for the freedom of people around the world, the Army is working to ensure its troops have the opportunity to vote.

"We actually put the federal postcard application into the hands of Soldiers, literally into their hands," said Joe Holman, Fort Hood's Voting Assistance Project Manager.

Holman said that because of the Defense Authorization Act of 2002, voting assistance officers in individual units are required to hand out the federal postcard applications to all Soldiers.

"The push by the Army is to ensure that every single Soldier gets the opportunity to vote, whatever their vote may be," Holman said. Holman said company commanders are required to report the number of registered Soldiers in their units.

"They don't get involved in how the Soldiers registered, or what party they may have affiliated with, that is considered inappropriate," Holman said. "However, they must monitor the number of Soldiers who are registered to vote, and report that number as part of the initiative.

"The Army wants everyone to have the opportunity to vote," he added. "It doesn't care how Soldiers vote, just that the opportunity is afforded to every single Soldier defending America."

Veda Sutton, a representative from the Bell County voter registration office said the federal



By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD

Former president Bill Clinton speaks to delegates at the 2004 Democratic National Convention Monday night in Boston. Delegates will officially nominate Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) as their candidate in November's national election.

application is good for those requesting out-of-state absentee ballots, and is useful when Soldiers are serving overseas, because that's how they get their absentee ballots sent to them.

"However, if a soldier wants to vote in person in Bell County, he or she needs to register to vote in Bell County to do that," Sutton said.

She said Soldiers who were registered to vote absentee in Bell County, especially those from the 4th Infantry Division who were in Iraq during the primaries, should visit the county office and register to vote so they can cast their ballots locally in November general election.

Sutton said the deadline to register, absentee or otherwise, is 30 days before the election.

"But in order to ensure soldiers get their ballots in a timely manner, it's recommended Soldiers and

family members register as soon as possible," she said.

Holman said the federal postcard application is good to register anyone for absentee voting for all federal elections.

"There may be other actions Soldiers have to take to vote in their respective states for more localized elections though," he said.

Holman said Soldiers with questions can contact their unit voting assistance officer.

"Every unit has a voting-assistance officer, and Fort Hood has taken special care to ensure we are all trained well, and at the very least find the information soldiers are

requesting," said Capt. Christine Enuriques, III Corps' voting officer.

She said that Soldiers also can access the federal Website www.fec.gov where they will find links to each state and requirements to register to vote. The federal postcard application also can be downloaded.

"The only difference is that they do have to pay postage to mail in the application," Enuriques said.

Enuriques said unit voting assistance officers also will help families.

"Our job as voting assistant officers is to make sure that every soldier and family member who wants to vote gets the opportunity," she said.

Recent speculation about the soldiers being offered the chance to vote online if they are overseas, will not happen in time for this election, Holman said.



Federal absentee ballots are available now. Get yours by contacting your unit voting assistance officer.

Bold Prediction:

Anthony Guarantees Gold for Roundballers

► From the *Associated Press*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Carmelo Anthony has a message for Argentina, Lithuania and the other best basketball teams from around the world: The United States is going to win at the Athens Games.

"We're guaranteeing a gold medal. We're bringing it back," Anthony boldly predicted Monday on his first day of practice with the U.S. national team.

It took very little prodding for Anthony to basically repeat what he said last week on David Letterman's late-night television talk show.

It betrayed a level of youthful cockiness that might seem at odds with one of the main messages the American coaching staff tried to get across at the team's welcome dinner Sunday night: Respect the competition.

"That's just a young kid saying that," coach Larry Brown said when informed of Anthony's guarantee. "But as long as he respects the people we're playing against and understands how good they've got, I don't have any problem with that."

The United States will field the youngest roster, with an average age of 23.6, since it began sending professionals to the Olympics in 1992. Anthony turned 20 less than two months ago, making him the second-youngest member of a team that includes three players — Anthony, LeBron James and Dwyane Wade — coming off their rookie NBA seasons, along with rookie-

to-be Emeka Okafor. Brown held a nearly three-hour practice and planned to put the players through two-a-days Monday and Tuesday in an effort to get them acquainted with one another. Only three players, Allen Iverson, Tim Duncan and Richard Jefferson, remain from the U.S. team that won the Tournament of the Americas last summer to qualify for a spot in the 12-team Athens field.

"We've got a lot of teaching to do. If we would

have had the nucleus of the guys from last summer, that wouldn't have been necessary," said Brown, who also lamented a shortage of preparation time.

"They've already mentioned that the other Olympic teams opened their camps a couple of weeks ago," Jefferson said.

From the looks of things Monday during a portion of practice that was open to the media, Brown has plenty of work ahead to get his team to conform to his mantra of "playing the right way."



By Jose Jiminez, Getty Images

Tim Duncan is one of just three American basketball players on the U.S. Olympic squad who dominated in qualifying tournament held in Puerto Rico.

Sports - In Brief

Big Apple Bound

The Newark Star-Ledger reports that one of Randy Johnson's agents is demanding his client be traded to the New York Yankees. The newspaper cited unnamed baseball officials and wrote that Barry Meister, a representative of the Arizona Diamondback left-hander, has attempted to strong-arm a deal by making veiled threats that Johnson could create problems if forced to continue to pitch for the last-place Arizona club.

Lewis Trial Will Cost Game Time

The Baltimore Sun writes that the Ravens are prepared to play without their All-Pro running back, Jamal Lewis, if his drug case goes to trial. Team officials, according to the newspaper, once considered adopting a schedule similar to that of Kobe Bryant's, but Ravens coach Brian Billick pointed out that game preparation for the two sports are vastly different. "This is not pro basketball," Billick said. Lewis has been charged with conspiring to possess, with intent to distribute, five kilograms of cocaine.

Raiders Wave Bye to Woodson

AP reports that the Oakland Raiders released 11-time Pro Bowl safety Rod Woodson when he failed a physical. The 39-year-old Woodson had a chronic left knee injury last season and had surgery in December. He was placed on injured reserve last November. Woodson had said that he did not want his career to end injured.